

Appendix E
Boil Water Notice Template

WARNING

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Middletown City water is contaminated with fecal coliform/E. coli.

Fecal coliform or E. coli bacteria were found in the water supply on November 5, 2007. These bacteria can make you sick and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

What should I do?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and preparing food until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

Fecal coliform and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with organisms that can cause illness in humans. These organisms can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Organisms in drinking water are not the only cause of the symptoms above. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened? What is being done?

The water distribution system was contaminated with fecal coliform. We are working with law enforcement and the public health department to investigate/resolve this issue. We are currently increasing the chlorination levels at the treatment plant as well as at the chlorine booster stations throughout the system. In addition, we are evaluating all available information and conducting tests to confirm the extent of the contamination of the system. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within the next 48 hours.

For more information, please contact John Johnson at 555-555-XXXX. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4794 and the Public Health Department Hotline at 1-800-XXX-XXXX.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand.

This notice is being sent to you by Middletown Water Department. PWSID#TN0000XXX
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